

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Quadeer A. Ahmed (Reg. No. 60,835) on 21 May 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (PROPOSED AMENDMENT): A digital camera comprising
an image pickup device for shooting a subject image,
motion picture compression means for compressing on a per frame basis the motion
picture data of a subject image shot with said image pickup device and recording the compressed
data onto a recording medium as compressed motion picture data,
marking instruction means for instructing addition of marking data to an arbitrary frame
in recording said motion picture data onto said recording medium,
marking means for adding marking data to a frame specified by said marking instruction
means,
search means for reading the compressed motion picture data from said recording
medium and for detecting a frame where said marking data is added from the compressed motion
picture data read from the recording medium;
motion picture decompression means for decompressing the frame and a predetermined
number of frames in the neighborhood of the frame on a per frame basis each time the frame
where said marking data is added is detected by the search means,
playback means for replaying the decompressed frame,
selection means for selecting an arbitrary frame displayed during playback by said
playback means, and

still picture data recording means for recording a frame selected by said selection means as still picture data onto said recording medium.

18. (PROPOSED AMENDMENT): A camera comprising
an image pickup circuit that shoots a subject image and generates motion picture data;
a compression circuit that compresses on a per frame basis the motion picture data of the subject image shot with said image pickup circuit and records the compressed data onto a recording medium as compressed motion picture data.

a instruction circuit that instructs addition of marking data to an arbitrary frame of the compressed motion picture data compressed by the compression circuit, while the image pickup circuit shoots the subject image;

a marking circuit that adds marking data to the arbitrary frame specified by said instruction circuit, wherein the marking circuit generates modified motion picture data of the subject image that includes the marking data to the arbitrary frame;

a first recording circuit that records the compressed and modified motion picture data generated by the marking circuit onto the recording medium;

a search circuit that reads the compressed motion picture data from the recording medium and detects a frame where said marking data is added from the compressed motion picture data read from the recording medium;

a decompression circuit that decompresses the detected frame and a predetermined number of frames in the neighborhood of the detected frame on a per frame basis each time a frame where said marking data is added is detected by the search circuit,

a playback circuit that plays back the detected decompressed frame and the predetermined number of decompressed frames in the neighborhood of said detected frame, when the search circuit finds the detected frame;

a selection circuit for selecting a desired frame among the detected frame and the predetermined number of the frames in the neighborhood of said detected frame during playback by said playback circuit; and

a second recording circuit that records the desired frame, selected via said selection circuit, as a still picture onto said recording medium.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While it is known in the prior art to capture multiple images and to select one of the images for recording, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a camera as claimed. Hirai for example discloses a system in which video images are captured and a recording switch is operated to add marking data to a sub-code region of the video. During playback, Hirai reads out a frame and frames within the neighborhood of the frame according to the sub-code field and a user is allowed to select a desired frame (e.g. Paragraphs 0042-0045). However, it is noted that in Hirai, the selection of a desired frame only updates the sub-code field and does not store the selected frame in a still picture format. On the contrary, the frames of Hirai are always stored in a motion picture format.

3. Miyazaki and Shimizu disclose a camera system in which multiple images are captured and stored, and subsequently displayed to allow a user to selected a desired

image for storage. However, the images are captured and stored as still images prior to selection and not stored as motion picture data as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571)272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 11-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TJH
5/21/2008

/Lin Ye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622